(c) The Confederation of Indian Industries signed a Memorandum of understanding with the Israel Export Institute providing inter-alia for exchange of information about products and industrial processes, economic and commercial matters and arranging seminars, courses and confederences and to undertake studies for developing specific programmes.

Free port at Kanyakumari

3669. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for setting up a free port at Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu as proposed by the Advisory Committee of Government of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The Free Port Committee has not recommended the location of a Free Port at Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.

(b) Does not arise.

Tobacco Board activities

3670. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Tobacco Board activities to non F.C.V. Tobacco;

(b) if so, at what stage of considera tion is the same;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in its implementation;

(d) what is the target rate to execute the same; and

(e) what steps have been taken to speed up the process?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (e) A Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20th August, 1990 by which the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act for regulating production and marketing of virginia tobacco were intended to be made applicable to non-virginia tobacco in a phased manner. Howeve, because of the dissolution of Lok Sabha on 13th March, 1991, the Bill lapsed. The proposal now requires further evaluation in view o the budgetary support required.

Recommendations of extreme focus set up by Board of Trade

3671. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1705 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations of the extreme focus group set up by the Board of Trades (BOT) in the Ministry of Commerce with a view to revising the established norms and procedures;

(b) whether it is a fact that the group has suggested wide ranging changes in financing foreign exchange and insurance procedure for the export of a cluster of 34 products as reported in the Indian Express dated the 22nd July, 1992 under its column "Business Express".

(c) if so, what are the details thereof including name of agency going to monitor such exports besides other specific re-commendations of the Group; and

(d) what are the likely recommendations of extreme focus group going to be accepted by Government for early implementation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The recommendations are still under examination.

(b) Yes, Sir.